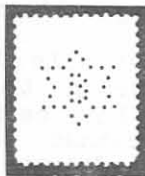


PERFIN PERUSALS

by Jack Brandt

1. Canada B - Star

Most Perfin collectors are familiar with the B Star Perfins used by the Burroughs Adding Machine Co. of Detroit, which are listed in the U.S. catalog as types B-15 and B-15.5. The latter has a wider B. For years I have had several examples of this Perfin on Canadian stamps, which is listed in the Canadian Handbook as type B1. But only recently did I check them thoroughly and found that both the U.S. types are also found on Canadian issues. I have the narrow B on 1903 and 1912 issues, and the wide B on 1935 and 1937 issues. Surely, someone must have checked these before, but I suppose they kept it to themselves, instead of sharing the knowledge.



2. Extra Code Holes

Code holes have always intrigued me, and I always check them carefully in the hope of finding a new branch. I have a couple of examples with one extra hole, and I have been wondering if it is real or just a 'stray' hole from a partial double strike. So, I ask if anyone else has copies of these items to confirm a new type.

The first is a Canadian GWL, which has the code beneath the G, which signifies Halifax, but also has another hole above the W, which is close to the code hole used by Calgary.

The second is a U.S. type, CPR, although a Canadian firm. This is similar to type C-279, which has no code hole, and was used in Chicago, and type C-280 with a code hole under the C, used in New York. My copy has a code hole above the C. Unfortunately, the cancel is part of a slogan and gives no town.



3. Belgian Railroads

Sometime back we had in the Bulletin some information on cancels identifying the Perfin users, and this got me watching the front of the stamp as well as the back. I recently noted that on my Belgian railroad stamps (Scott Q11, Q12) bearing the Perfin V.W./C., besides the normal rectangular railroad type cancel, there is also a rubber stamp cancel

"V.WAUCQUEZ & Cie" in violet. I wonder if this is another protection device or what. I have the same Perfin on several postal issues and they do not have the overprint. Anyway, the user is identified on the stamp, and all the cancels read Brussels, so he is also located.



4. Paquebot Perfins

I suspect most Perfin collectors don't inspect the cancels on their Perfins very closely, and I think they should. Recently, I have noted in my Perfin collection a couple of Paquebot cancels, one on U.S. stamps and one on Great Britain stamps. The U.S. example is Perfin type S-59, the SB/SA Perfin used by the Standard Bank of South Africa, with U.S. offices in New York. The cancel is a 30-mm diameter circle, with CAPETOWN around the top, and PAQUEBOT around the bottom. There is a smaller inner circle and the date in the center. This is type A57 in the book "Ocean Mails" by Cockrell. I have the cancel on a pair of Scott #804, and a single #811. Both cancels are dated 20 Mar, 1940, 9AM. Probably these originated from some last minute business, and the letters were taken to the ship at New York to be sure to catch the mails.

The Great Britain example is U-C/Co (type U42.2a) used by the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co. Ltd. of London, England. The cancel is similar to the above, except the top line has CAPETOWN in smaller letters over KAAPSTAD, the remainder being the same. I have this cancel on two copies of Scott #296, one with a 1953 cancel and the other a 1954 cancel. These may have been used as the above, or since they are a steamship line, may actually have been used aboard ship.



5. Portugal BNU Perfins

Most collectors of foreign Perfins will have some of the BNU Perfins from Portugal. The probable user of them is the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, of Lisbon. I noted some time ago that these came B.N.U and B.N.U., the latter having a final period. I thought

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for some time that the former might just be a damaged latter. However, being a splitter rather than a lump, I split them. Over the years I have built up a collection of about 170 of the final-period variety and only 40 of the no-final-period one. On taking a close look at the stamps, one notes that the no-period one always has only one Perfin on the stamp, and it is usually complete. While, on the final-period type there are usually two Perfins on a stamp, and one or both are splits. A little more study suggests that the no-period type is a one-head machine, while the period type is a multihead machine. I haven't tried to figure out how many heads, but it is at least three.

Further study notes that the period type was damaged at one point, but it was the period after the N that was missing. This can be found in pairs with a complete Perfin.



6. Revenue Code Heads

More Perfin collectors are starting to collect, or at least accumulate, revenue Perfins, and I would like to see some of the knowledgeable collectors share more information on them.

One thing I have noted is that code holes are also present on revenue Perfins. An example is the CNB Perfin, probably used by Chase National Bank. I illustrate three different code holes, two of which are known on postal issues and are types C-217 and C-219. The third type has the code hole over the B and so far is not known on postal issues. One interesting point is that all three of these are on New York Stock Transfer Tax stamps, so probably all were used in NYC, possibly in different bank branches.

